

Concept Note – HAS Side Event

**Study of the Impact of Donor Counter-Terrorism Measures on
Principled Humanitarian Action**

17 July 2013

Room XXV, Palais des Nations

17.45-19.00

Background

Over the past decade, humanitarian actors have grown increasingly concerned about the impact of international and national counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian action. States have adopted such measures to respond to perceived increased risk following the attacks of 11 September 2001, to conform to United Nations (UN) Security Council and General Assembly decisions, and to ensure greater oversight and accountability for resource flows in unstable contexts.

Although an objective of counter-terrorism measures is to protect civilians from harm, a number of studies emanating from the humanitarian community or research institutions have articulated concerns regarding specific contexts or donor government measures and how they are applied or interpreted.

In 2011, to further advance the research and analysis of these issues, including from a more global perspective, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Task Force on Humanitarian Space and Civil-Military Relations asked the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to commission an independent, comprehensive study on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on principled humanitarian action.

In early 2012, NRC and OCHA commissioned a group of independent researchers to undertake the study. The study reviews the international legal framework underpinning counter-terrorism efforts; analyses relevant legislation and policies from one regional and fourteen national jurisdictions; and provides examples of the impacts that these measures can have on principled humanitarian action. It concludes with recommendations on ways in which any potential adverse humanitarian impacts can best be mitigated. The study will be formally launched at the side event.

Discussion format

The event will be opened by **Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Assistant-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator**.

Kate Mackintosh and **Patrick Duplat** will introduce the report and its findings and recommendations to be followed by a question and answer session and discussion.

Ms. Toril Brekke, Secretary-General of NRC, will make closing remarks.